and technical civil works in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas with a common ceiling of Rs. 75 lakhs is admissible for Cold Storages for non-horticulture produce and special type of cold storage with controlled atmosphere modified atmosphere facility to all implementing agencies. Besides, Cold storages which are an integral part of processing units or part of common facilities in Food Parks are also assisted. For setting up/ upgradation of Quality testing laboratories, assistance admissible is limited to the entire cost of capital equipment in case of Central/State Government organizations, MTs and universities. In case of all other Implementing Agencies, the assistance is limited to 33% of the cost of capital equipment in General Areas and upto 50% in difficult areas under the scheme.

(g) Assistance amounting to Rs. 9.44 Crore has been released in respect of proposals from Rajasthan under different schemes of the Ministry, during the Tenth Plan period, so far.

Food processing technology for preserving seasonal products

406. DR. E.M.SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study to use the food processing technology for preserving and marketing seasonal products available in South India such as tomato, potato, which can be brought to north Indian markets to meet the demand and scarcity; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to protect the Indian producers from the competition of "Washington Apple" in Indian market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) Adequate technologies are available in India for preservation and marketing of seasonal products like tomato potato for bringing them for South India to the North Indian markets. Hence, no such study has been conducted by this Ministry.

(b) The Government provides financial assistance to the food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid for technology upgradation/modernization/ establishment upto 25% and 33.33% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil work subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas like North East, J&K, Uttaranchal,

Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim etc. Other schemes for assistance are also being operated for facilitating food processing industries. Assistance is also available under the National Horticulture Mission to improve the productivity and quality of apples and other fruits. Apple producing States have taken a number of steps to improve the yield of fruits, ensure better quality and value addition. Private investors are also taking up infrastructure like cold storage, grading centers, etc. to improve the marketability of apples.

Financial assistance for Cold Storage

407. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the financial assistance provided for construction of cold storage to States is only 25 per cent of the cost:

(b) the details of financial assistance released under this scheme, Statewise, during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government will consider providing 100 per cent assistance for cold storage in regions where fruits and vegetables are grown in large quantities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, provides financial assistance in the form of grant in aid upto 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas with a common ceiling of Rs. 75 lakhs for Cold Storages for non-horticulture produce and special type of cold storage with controlled atmosphere/ modified atmosphere facility. Besides, Cold storages which are an integal part of processing units or part of common facilities in Food Parks are also assisted. A statement showing details of financial assistance released by the Ministry for Cold Storages under the scheme component-Integrated Cold Chain Facilities, State-wise, during the last three years is enclosed (See below).

(c) Enhanced level of assistance for integrated cold chain scheme is presently being discussed with the Planning Commission for inclusion in the Eleventh Five Year Plan.